

In regards to the question presented in Section II of the NOI, concerning political programming, I do think that stations should be forced to televise debates and relevant political discourse. Without this, the public would not be informed about their national, state, and local politicians. When the public is better informed on the issues that each candidate represents, the more likely that they will participate in the election process. As of now, only 50 percent of the eligible voters in the U.S. actually participate in the election process whether it is the presidential or mayoral election. The average American is unaware of other issues, aside from the war in Iraq and health insurance, which are being debated today in our nation's capital, making political discourse essential in educating the public.

As to whether or not there should be a minimum amount of political programming the stations should air, I believe this is a necessary rule that should be made. There should also be a specified allotted time so that the public actually is able to view these discussions or advertisements, such as in the early morning before the people go to work and in the evening when most of the workforce have gone home.

I also believe the rates provided for political programming are fair, however I do think the rates should be more widely publicized that way a challenger to the incumbent, who is beginning their first campaign, will be more informed and able to stop anyone who is trying to take advantage of them.